CLOSURE FOR CONTAINERS AND RECLOSABLE CONTAINERS INCLUDING THE SAME

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/414,899 filed on April 16, 2003, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

now U.S. Patent No. 6,988,828

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to closure means for containers and more specifically to an air-tight snap closure for allowing re-opening and re-closing of a container for keeping the freshness of the container contents.

DISCUSSION OF THE RELATED ART

Various off-the-shelf goods, such as food products, are distributed in sealed packages to ensure that the package was not opened before purchasing, to prevent spillage of contents and to prevent exposure of the package contents to ambient atmosphere. For various food products, it is also common to seal the package under vacuum, as is well known in the art, for better protecting the products. Once purchased, the initial seal is broken in order to access the package contents.

However, many times the contents of the package are not consumed immediately but over a period of time. For this reason, there exist various secondary closure means which allows re-closing and re-opening of a container after the container is first opened and which serves both for preventing accidental spillage of the contents and for keeping the freshness of the contents by minimizing the exposure of the container contents to air. Re-closable closures appear in different forms and may be provided either as an integral part of the container or as a separate unit. One family type of such closures comprises two compatible parts deposited on opposite walls of a container which when pressed together form a tight sealing. The two parts may be secured either on the inner or on the outer surfaces of the container walls. In the first case, when closed, the two closure parts are in immediate contact with each other. In the second case, the walls of the container are interposed between the closure members. External closures have some advantages